

Torrance, California
November 25, 1947

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, November 25, 1947, at 7:55 p.m.

Mayor Sherfey called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson, and Sherfey. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the flag.

Councilman Tolson moved that the Minutes of a Regular Meeting held November 12, 1947, be approved as written. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Standard Gas Company, 605 West Olympic Boulevard, Los Angeles, tendering a check in the amount of \$69.70 in payment for pipe line constructed under Section 10 of Ordinance No. 389. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the First Church of Christ, Scientist, expressing the Board of Directors' appreciation for the use of the Civic Auditorium for their lecture to be given January 8, 1948, at 8:00 p.m. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Domanco Company, 2309 Western Avenue, requesting that the City place an oiled or some other type surface on 223rd Street between Abalone and Western Avenues.

After some discussion, Councilman Tolson moved that this communication be referred to the City Engineer for study and recommendation to the Council. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization, requesting the erection of large "School Zone" signs on either side of Pacific Coast Highway where Ward Street crosses it, and also, that pedestal school crossing signs be placed in the center of the Highway for the protection of children attending the WALTERIA School.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this communication be referred to the Chief of Police for study and recommendation to the Council. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles Office of Air Pollution Control, 808 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, calling attention to the excessive smoke which emitted from an open fire at the City Dump on October 28, 1947, and requesting that a recurrence of the violation be avoided.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Engineer be authorized to investigate the matter for recommendation to the Council at a later meeting. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Sherfey moved that the City Clerk be authorized to notify the Office of Air Pollution Control, that the City Council is cognizant of the need for correcting the condition of excess smoke and fumes on Western Avenue, and is now negotiating with the Pacific Waste Products Company to bring about a solution to the problem. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Richard P. Sinclair, 2326 Sonoma Street, requesting the removal of broken glass and other trash from the curbs of Border Avenue, between Torrance Boulevard and the Columbia Steel Plant. He suggested, also, that signs be posted discouraging future littering of this area.

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Councilman Gilbert moved that this communication be referred to the City Engineer for checking and recommendation to the Council. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. James R. Robinson, 126 North Bandini Street, San Pedro, requesting permission to park a house trailer on his lot at 3827 Newton Street in Walteria while constructing a house there. Councilman Gilbert moved that a 90-day permit be granted Mr. Robinson to enable him to park his trailer at the above address.

Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Hartford Fire Insurance Company, Los Angeles Special Risk Department, with reference to a recent inspection of all buildings and premises at the Torrance Municipal Airport, and outlining certain requirements, such as the installation of recommended fire fighting equipment and the establishment of certain precautions. These recommendations must be complied with, the letter stated, prior to the issuance of fire insurance protection for the Airport.

Mayor Sherfey advised that the Fire Chief and the Airport Manager are advised of these requirements and are making whatever changes are necessary.

A communication was read from W. E. Kalbfleisch, Attorney-at-Law, 1308 Sartori Avenue, applying for appointment to the office of City Attorney to replace Mr. Otto B. Willett whose resignation is expected very shortly.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this communication be referred to the Council as a whole for future reference. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Otto B. Willett, City Attorney, submitting his resignation, effective November 15, 1947, due to his recent appointment as City Judge, and the fact that the two offices are incompatible.

Mayor Sherfey moved that the resignation of Mr. Willett be accepted with regrets and that the City Clerk be authorized to write him a letter of appreciation for past services as City Attorney. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, recommending that Section 1 of City Ordinance No. 96 be amended to read as follows:

"It shall be unlawful for any intoxicated person, or any person in an intoxicated condition, willfully to appear, remain, or be in or on any place open to the public view or in any store, railway depot, stadium, or other places to which the public is admitted or invited, or in or on any private premises or in any private house to the annoyance of any other person."

Councilman Tolson moved that the City Attorney be instructed to prepare an amendment to City Ordinance No. 96 in accordance with Chief Stroh's recommendation. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A Resolution was read from the Torrance City School District, signed by J. Henrich Hull, Superintendent, approving an assessment levy for the Fern Avenue Elementary School and Playground in the amount of one cent (\$0.01) for Block 6 and one cent (\$0.01) for Block 11, Tract 4070, for proposed improvements in the Vista Highlands Improvement District.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this communication be filed for future reference. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

An Application for Taxicab Owner's Permit was presented, which was filed by Charles T. Berry, 2363 Torrance Boulevard, and approved by the Chief of Police.

Councilman Tolson moved that Mr. Berry be granted the Permit. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

An Application for Variance of Zone, filed by the Torrance Manor, Case No. 102 was presented for the Council's action.

An Application for Variance of Zone, filed by J. E. Kettler, Case No. 103, was presented for the Council's action.

An Application for Variance of Zone, filed by J. Hugh Sherfey, Jr., Case No. 104, was presented for the Council's action.

Councilman Gilbert moved that these three (3) Applications for Variance of Zone, Case Nos. 102, 103 and 104, be referred to the Planning Commission for study and recommendation to the Council. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1875

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ALLOCATING \$41,000 to COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 2 FROM "STATE AID" FUNDS, KNOWN AS "CHAPTER 20, STATUTES OF CALIFORNIA-----"FUNDS FOR USE IN CONSTRUCTING TRUNK SEWERS", AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 1823.

Councilman Gilbert moved that further reading of Resolution No. 1875 be dispensed with. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Resolution No. 1875 be adopted. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At Mayor Sherfey's request, Harold A. Barnett, Acting City Engineer, read the Debt Modification Report, dated November 12, 1947, with reference to the proposed Vista Highlands Improvement District, which was read previously at a Regular Meeting held on that date; after which he outlined the procedure to be taken by the Council in carrying out plans for the District.

Mayor Sherfey moved that the Debt Modification Report No. 1 be accepted by the Council and filed for future reference. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1876

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS OF VISTA HIGHLANDS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF CURBS, GUTTERS, SIDEWALKS AND PAVEMENT, IS REQUIRED BY THE PUBLIC INTEREST, CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY; DENYING PROTESTS AGAINST THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT; FINDING THAT THE LIMITATIONS UPON THE AMOUNT OF ASSESSMENTS, AS IMPOSED BY PART 5 OF DIVISION 4 OF THE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO THE ASSESSMENTS OR ASSESSMENT PROCEEDINGS MAY BE DISREGARDED; AND INSTRUCTING THE CITY ENGINEER TO PREPARE FINAL PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Councilman Gilbert moved that Resolution No. 1876 be adopted. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

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ORDINANCE NO. 397

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE IMPOSING
A LICENSE TAX FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF SELLING
TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY AT RETAIL, PROVIDING
FOR THE COLLECTING AND PAYING OF SUCH TAX,
AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF
THE PROVISIONS HEREOF.

Councilman Tolson moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 397 be dispensed with. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Upon Mayor Sherfey's request, City Attorney Willett read the "Emergency Paragraph" of the Ordinance.

Councilman Tolson moved that Ordinance No. 397 be adopted as an Emergency Ordinance. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A Statement was read from the Lund Company Insurance, 1425 $\frac{1}{2}$ Marcelina Avenue, requesting a payment of \$51.30 in connection with Airport Liability Insurance for the Torrance Municipal Airport.

Councilman Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$51.30 be made to the Lund Company Insurance for adjustment of premiums in connection with Airport Liability Insurance for the Torrance Municipal Airport. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A Statement was read from the Lund Company Insurance, 1425 $\frac{1}{2}$ Marcelina Avenue, requesting a payment of \$321.53 for premiums on Public Liability Insurance for the City Street Department.

Councilman Jackson moved that an appropriation of \$321.53 be made for payment of premiums on Public Liability Insurance for the Street Department. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Sherfey stated that Ordinance No. 397, which was just adopted, is a necessary measure, due to the fact that the revenue which has resulted from the City Sales Tax has been much less than was expected. He advised that the income from the Tax for the past year has been largely earmarked to pay off an indebtedness to the Water Department, and has not been of great benefit to the City in general, as some people may have expected.

Councilman Jackson moved that an appropriation of \$200.00 be made for the purchase of 1000 gallons of L3X Bitumuls; 20 tons of #3 rock; 10 tons of #4 rock; and 10 tons of #5 rock, for street repairs. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Jackson moved that the City Council authorize the employment of William H. Munds, as Building Inspector, at a salary of \$280.00 per month, on a temporary basis, pending a civil service examination; employment effective November 24, 1947. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Jackson moved that the City Council authorize the appointment of George W. Stevens as City Administrator on a temporary basis, effective January 1, 1948, at a salary of \$750.00 per month. This appointment is temporary for the reason that the Council expects to submit to the vote of the people of Torrance, at the next general election, in April, 1948, the matter of a charter amendment covering such administrator. His duties will include such as are

delegated to him by the City Council. He further moved that, effective January 1, 1948, the said George W. Stevens shall take over the duties of Purchasing Agent of the City, in place of the City Clerk. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Tolson moved that on receipt of a written request, the Council grant Mehring and Hansen a temporary permit to use concrete slab, located on the property at the northeast corner of Cab-rillo Avenue and Double Street, for special work, said permit to expire July 1, 1948; Mehring and Hansen to post a bond and agree to remove equipment at termination of permit. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Tolson moved that the Council appropriate the sum of \$1.00 per month, per man, to the Police Department for ammunition for practice at the Pistol Range, effective until July 1, 1948. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

ABG940 An attorney, Mr. Holland, advised that his client, Mable Krietzner, presented a claim before the City Council some time ago with regard to an injury she received while on one of the City's busses, but had received no compensation. The claim, he stated, was referred by the Bus Lines and the City Council to the City's insurance company, Lund Company Insurance, and was not heard from since.

Upon City Attorney Willett's recommendation, Councilman Tolson moved that the City Council reject Mable Krietzner's claim, in order to put Mr. Holland in a position to negotiate directly with the City's insurance carrier. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A woman addressed the Council with a query as to whether or not the Petition submitted by property owners in the Vista Highlands Improvement District, protesting the District, was considered or studied.

Mayor Sherfey answered her question by stating that he had personally studied the Petition with interest and had come to the conclusion that, although many people had protested the District, they themselves will benefit through the increased valuation of their property. He advised that the future growth of the City will extend to the West, and that for the best interests of both the City and the property owners, the improvements should be made.

Mr. Anderson, 1226 Date Avenue, stated that Mr. Gamby Boss, 1230 Date Avenue, had inquired at the City Engineer's Office with the result that he found the recorded number of protests in an amount of sixty-eight percent, as compared to thirty-two percent approvals.

John Patrick, Assistant City Engineer, verified Mr. Anderson's statement.

Others protesting the Council's decision to go ahead with the Vista Highlands Improvement District were:

Mr. Gamby Boss, 1230 Date Avenue
Mr. Bert Lynn, 915 Amapola Avenue
Mr. James Lynch, 1604 Juniper Avenue

Mayor Sherfey advised the audience that there will be another opportunity to submit protests to the proposed District after the Resolution of Intention is adopted.

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Councilman Gilbert moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 9:00 p.m., upon motion by Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Jackson, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE